

Botschaft der Bundesrepublik Deutschland

Peking Embassy of the
Federal Republic of Germany

FINAL REPORT

GRAIN THRESHING MACHINES for 40 IMPOVERISHED TIBETAN FAMILIES

Summary

Where?

Zhangda ཟུག་མདའ། Village, Yimu ཉིམ་མོ། Township, Luhuo ལུའུ་རོ། County, Ganze རྒྱལ་ཁོང་སྤོམ། Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Sichuan རྒྱུ་ཁྱེ། Province, PR China.

What?

Grain threshing machines for impoverished Tibetan households to reduce the work burden on women and girls.

Who?

40 Tibetan families (240 people) in Zhangda Village

Cost?

German Embassy: 40,500RMB; Local: 2,000RMB

LETTER OF APPRECIATION

Dear German Embassy

On behalf of the recipients, I am pleased to report on the successful implementation of this project with great appreciation and gratitude. This project gave new life to, particularly, women and girls, who are culturally bonded to threshing tasks that are truly difficult and require great effort. Recipients were extremely pleased to receive such unconditional offerings of aid. I must report a sentence from one of my interviewees here: "If there is such a thing as blessing, then this is a real blessing."

Villagers will begin using the machines in mid September. However they have already changed their way of carrying out farming tasks. In the past, families without threshing machines would help families who had machines to weed their fields and do other farmwork. This was in order to be able to use the richer families' threshing machine to thresh their own grain. Sometimes, this resulted in these poorer families taking their children out of school to do this work. This project has ended this practice I personally visited the local primary school and learnt that children were no longer being taken out of school to do such labor and that the children had more time to do their homework.

Speaking of positive effects of this project in terms of local financial income, I remember a few sentences from one of my interviewees, Mtsho lha (b. 1972), a mother of four. The oldest child is eight years old. She said this year she wouldn't need to ask her husband to come home to help her with threshing. In the past, every year during the threshing period, her husband had to come home from worksites to help his wife with threshing. That directly reduced the family's annual cash income. He would earn 35-50 RMB per day, and if he is absent for three months that is about 3,600 RMB; approximately the average annual cash income of one family.

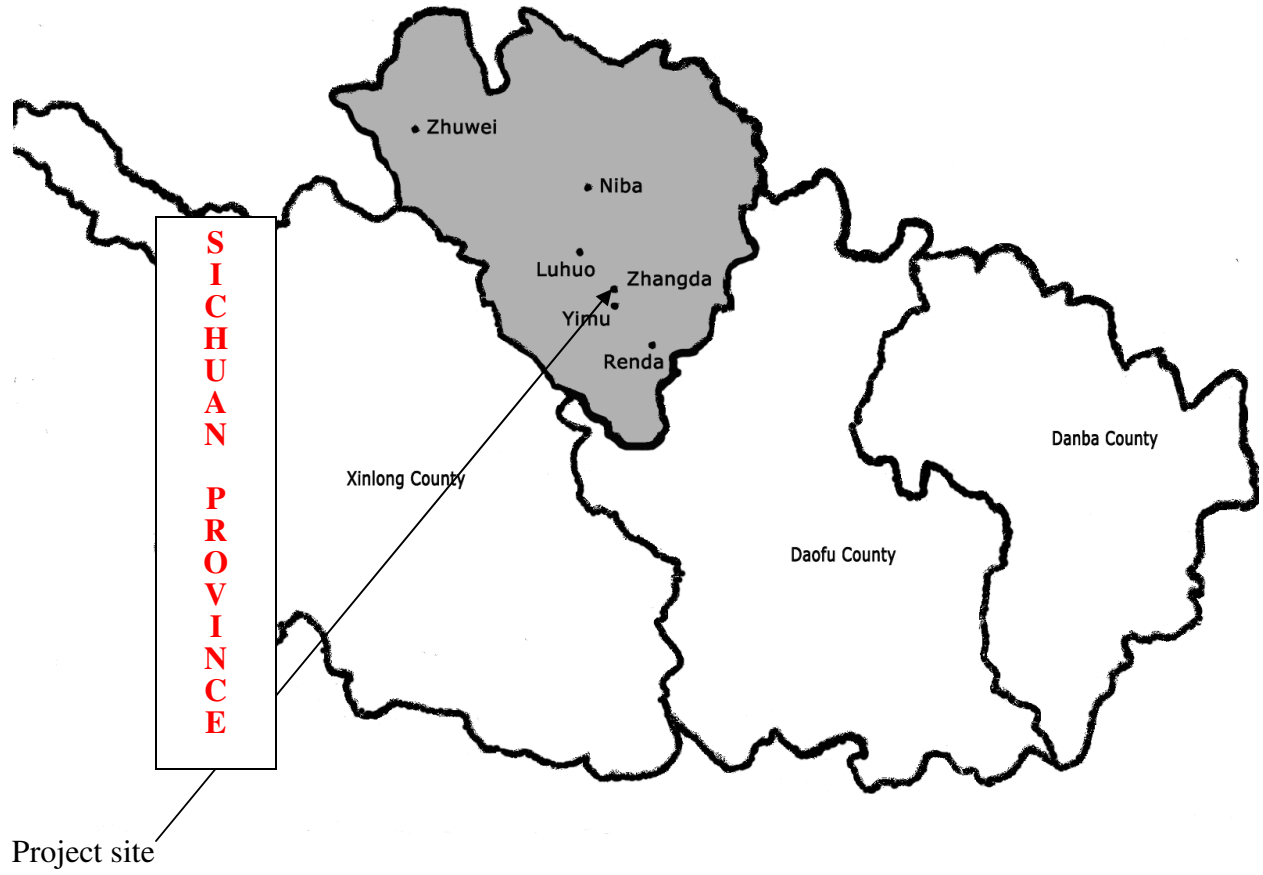
Another important impact of this project is that it promotes community harmony. Hatred between families and gossip about poor families were unavoidable in the past during the threshing period. Before the project, the village had only four threshing machines. There are a total of 100 households in the village. The poorest and least powerful families had to wait the longest time to use the machines and few families were willing to help them, causing great emotional suffering. This project utterly changed this: Poor families no longer need to wait for other families to finish threshing and a gap between poor and rich no longer exists during the threshing period.

I, a native of Zhangda Village, am very lucky to have been able to help do such a practical and helpful project for my home community. I feel privileged to be trusted and given this opportunity to implement this project.

Many thanks,

Lhundrum (Herbert)

MAP OF PROJECT SITE



PHOTOGRAPHS



Threshing machines in the factory in Chengdu.



Threshing machines transported to the village.



Threshing machines unloaded in the village.



Recipients take their threshing machines home.



Tshe ring dbang phyugs (b. 1940) lives with his younger brother (who is currently in prison) and his brother's two daughters and son. The brother's wife left the village when her husband was incarcerated. Because of the family financial condition, Tshe ring dbang phyugs stopped the older daughter and the son from attending school. He sells grain at a low price to purchase family necessities. Tshe ring dbang phyugs said, "Due to the few number of threshing machines and large number of households in the village I had to wait for most of the other families to finish threshing, which usually takes a month; before I had a chance to use a machine. After waiting for such a long time, the grain had become wet and some of it spoiled--I wouldn't be able to produce as much as other families who were able to use a threshing machine soon after they finished their harvest. I am happy and grateful to those who provided the money and made this project possible. I will never stop praying for these compassionate people."



Songs rgyas, lives with his three daughters and wife. He spent all his savings for two daughters' tuition fees to study in a vocational training school. Finally, neither of them got a job. The threshing machine his family received is very useful because they can now thresh their grain quickly. This will result in a greater amount of grain because the grain will not have time to become wet and spoil. Secondly, the family will not have to pay (20RMB/hour for 5-6 hours) to rent a threshing machine.



Gyung drung lha mo is the only female in her family and had to spend two months to complete threshing tasks before this project was implemented.

Providing Grain Threshing Machines for Impoverished Households To Alleviate the Burdens of Women and Girls

1: Brief Introduction of Locality

- a) Project Name: Providing Grain Threshing Machines for Impoverished Households to Alleviate the Burdens of Women and Girls
- b) Project Location: Zhangda Village, Yimu Township, Luhuo County, Ganze Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Sichuan Province, PR China.
- c) Ethnic Population: 240 people from 40 households from Zhangda villages. All are Tibetan except two Chinese families.
- d) Economic Situation of the Ethnic Group: Local people grow wheat, potatoes, beans, barley, raise livestock, sell grain and collect and sell caterpillar fungus.
- e) Project Duration: May 1st to May 27, 2008
- f) Project Executors: Lhundrum
- g) Contact Information:

Dr. Kevin Stuart and Lhundrum
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Qinghai Nationalities Teachers' College
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PR China.
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Phone: 971-6318505

2: Information about the Project:

- 1. German Embassy Funds: 40,500 RMB
- 2. Total Local Contribution: 2,000 RMB

3. Accomplishments:

- 20 threshing machines were provided to 40 Tibetan Households.
- 250 people directly benefited.

4. Benefits:

- The number of project beneficiaries is around 250. Women and girls enjoy the most immediate benefits from this project for they no longer must be anxious and worried about threshing.
- In the past, families without threshing machines needed to help families who had threshing machines in order to be able to use the machines to thresh their own grain. It was also the case that such machines could be rented, as detailed above, costing about 120RMB. At times, school girls were taken out of school to do the farm work that would count as payment for their families to be able to use a threshing machine. This project has thus:
 - improved the rate of school attendance, especially among girls
 - increased family income by ending the need to pay cash to use a threshing machine
- Increased family income because men needed to return home from their work-sites outside the village where they were earning cash income in order to help their families with threshing--the threshing machines are large and require 5-10 people to move them from one home to another. This reduced the amount of cash-income men could earn. The machines provided through this German Embassy sponsored project are small and need few people to operate.
- Reduced the labor burden on women. Women no longer have to use traditional slappers (see photograph below in the 'original proposal') to thresh grain. Women and girls can use this free time to rest, study in school (girls), and in housework and farmwork.

5. Sustainability: The threshing machines are simply made and many local residents can easily repair them. The machines are guaranteed for three months. Malfunctioning machines will be replaced or repaired free of charge..

6. Selecting Recipients: Two criteria were used in recipient family selection: (1) few or no family members who earn income; or whose annual income was under 5,000 RMB and (2) families had to have at least one student to support, regardless of the grade.

7. Project Implementation Record:

2008 May	Activities
1-15	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Market research done.• Good quality products purchased.• Threshing machines transported to the village.
16-26	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Meetings held with the whole village.• Individual households were visited to seek suggestions.• Recipients were chosen.• Machines were distributed to the recipients.• Local contribution collected.• Interviews with recipients were done.

8. Finances:

Item	Total RMB Approved	Total Amount Received RMB
Funds received from the German Embassy	40,500	40,500
Machine purchase	37,000	37,000
Transport fee for machines.	3,500	3,500
Local contribution.	2,000	2,000
TOTAL BUDGET		42,500
Item	Description	Cost/RMB
Machines (Receipt 1)	20 threshing machines and 20 threshing machine power generators 1,850 RMB per.	37,000
Machine transport fee (Receipts 2&3)	Chengdu-Luhuo 3,000 RMB; Luhuo-Zhangda Village 500 RMB.	3,500
TOTAL		40,500
Local Contribution: 2,000 RMB.		
Lhundrum's travel expense Xining-Luhuo-Xining.		1,500
Contribution to local ritual fast gathering.		500
TOTAL		2,000

RECEIPTS

1. Threshing machines: 37,000 RMB from the company in Chengdu
2. Transportation fee: Chengdu-Luhuo 3,000
3. Transportation fee: Luhuo-Zhangda 500

TOTAL 40,500

规格品名		单位	数量	单价	金 额					备 注		
					十	万	千	百	十		元	角
脱粒机		40型	20	1850	3	3	7	0	0	0	0	
合计金额					¥ 肆 佰 零 五 千 零 五 拾 元 零 角 零 分							

户名: 2008年5月16日 No 0003308

内部使用 不作发票

单位盖章: 负责人: 收款人: 阳

①存根 ②客户(正)

收款收据

No 0077953

户名: 运费

2008年5月20日

规格品名	单位	数量	单价	金额				
				十	万	千	百	元
运回半季升五星牌4型脱粒机	台	20	每套150.					
电机, 乐山五通桥木碗子	台	20						
电动机台								
合计(大写)	X拾 X万 叁仟 X佰 X拾 X元 X角 X分			¥ 3000.00				

第二联 收据

单位盖章:

负责人:

收款人: 郑小

收款
从县城运20台脱粒机和
电动机到一区宜木乡章达村收运费
500元。
次星
2008.5.20

Recipients

No.	Date
1	20/1/11
2	20/1/11
3	20/1/11
4	20/1/11
5	20/1/11
6	20/1/11
7	20/1/11
8	20/1/11
9	20/1/11
10	20/1/11
11	20/1/11
12	20/1/11
13	20/1/11
14	20/1/11
15	20/1/11
16	20/1/11
17	20/1/11
18	20/1/11
19	20/1/11
20	20/1/11

Recipients

འཛོམས་ལུ།	'dzoms lu
དཔལ་ལྷན།	Dpal ldan
བཀྲ་ཤིས།	Bkra shis
རིག་ལྷན།	Rik ldan
བསོད་ནམས་དངོས་གྲུབ།	Bsod nams dngos grub
ཨ་གྲགས།	A grgas
ཨ་ཁུང་།	A khyung
དུས་པོ།	Dus po
ལྷག་སྐད།	Lhag skad
ཆེ་རིང་ལྷ་སྒྱིད།	Tshe ring lha skyid
གཡང་རྩུང་།	Gyang drung
དར་རྒྱས།	Dar rgys
ཆེ་རིང་དབང་ཕྱུགས།	Tshe ring dbang phyugs
སངས་རྒྱས།	Sngas rgys
གཡང་རྩུང་ལྷ་མོ།	Gyang drung lha mo
པ་པོ།	Pa po
མཚོ་ལྷ།	Mthso lha
འཕྲིན་ལས།	'phrin las
བསོད་ནམས་བསྟན་འཛིན།	Bsod nams bstan 'dzin
གྲགས་པ།	Grgs pa
ཉི་མ་བཀྲ་ཤིས།	Nyim bkra shis
ཆེ་རིང་ཉི་མ།	Tshe ring nyi ma
སྒྲོལ་མ་མཁའ་འགྲོ།	Sgrol ma mkha' 'gro'
ཆོས་སྒྲོབས།	Chos skyobs

Recipients

སྐུ་པོ།	Sku po
ལུ་པུག།	Lu pug
གཡང་སྒྱིད།	Gyang skyid
རང་ཐོགས།	Rang thogs
གཡང་ཆེན།	Gyang chen
རིག་གནས།	Rig gnas
རིག་གྲགས།	Rig grgs
སྐུ་དགའ།	Sku dga'
འཆི་མེད།	'chi med
གསང་འཕྱི།	Gsang 'tsi
ཐུབ་དགའ།	Thub dga
ལུ་བཟང་།	Lu bzang
བསྟན་འཕེལ།	Bstan 'phel
སྟབས་ལྡན།	Stabs ldan
ཆོས་སྒྲོན།	Chos sgron
བསོད་ནམས་དངོས་གྲུབ།	Bsod nmas dngos grub

Original Proposal



**Botschaft
der Bundesrepublik Deutschland
Peking**

Embassy
of the Federal Republic of Germany

**Providing Grain Threshing Machines for Impoverished
Households
to
Alleviate Burdens of Women and Girls**

A: Brief Introduction of Locality

- a) **Project Name:**
Providing Grain Threshing Machines for Impoverished Households to Alleviate Burdens of Women and Girls
- b) **Project Location:**
Brag mda' (Zhang da) Village, Yimu Township, Ganze Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Sichuan Province, PR China.
- c) **Ethnic Population:**
500 in Brag mda' village.
- d) **Economic Situation of The Ethnic Group:**
- Growing barley, wheat, potato, bean, raising livestock, and collecting and selling caterpillar fungus.
 - Ninety percent of households have no go far away from the village to earn cash income by working in construction sites such as road and building.
 - Local people also borrow money from Credit Corporative at very high interest rates.
- e) **Contact Information:**

Contact Person:	PhD Kevin Stuart and Lhundrum
Address:	English Training Program, Qinghai Nationalities Teachers' College Qinghai University, Xining City 810008, China.
Email Address:	herbert5220@yahoo.com herbert5220@gmail.com (Lhundrum)
Zip Code:	810008
Telephone Number	971-6318505 (Kevin Stuart)
Fax Number	None

B: Project Information

◆ Applicant and Implementation Group

Lhundrum is a graduate of the English Training Program, Qinghai Nationalities Teacher's College, Qinghai Normal University. He is a native of Brag mda,' village, Yimu Township, Luhuo County, Ganze Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, in Sichuan Province. He has studied English for four years and is the first person from his community who has had the chance to receive an education in a university. His involvement with the ETP has exposed him to such NGOs as the Snowland Service Group (Yushu) and the Sanchuan Development Association. As a result, Lhundrum has the ability to implement small-scale projects.

◆ State the Problem:

This farming village cultivates wheat, barley, peas and potatoes. It is home to 100 households. Only recently villagers were introduced to tractors and threshing machines however, only wealthy families can afford these. These introductions have, however, led all the villagers to realize how much easier and convenient things would be with a threshing machine and how much longer female students in particular could remain at school to participate in class if families had such machines. Grain is reaped, bundled, and brought to the home, where it is put on the roof. Without a threshing machine, families use the 'slapper' below to beat the unbundled grain that is scattered on the roof. This homemade threshing tool is made from wood, leather, and plastic. The wooden handle is held and is used to slap the threshing paddle (the part woven from leather) forcefully onto barley and wheat stalks. This is physically demanding and harmful--after two days of threshing using this tool, women's hands become red, blistered, and painful.



The stalks are then separated from the grain, the grain is winnowed by hand, and then stored inside the home. The number of days required to complete the threshing ranges from 15-20 days (with a threshing machine, only 5-6 hours is required). Furthermore, when it rains, the unthreshed grain is soaked, damaging the quality of the grain. Women and girls are responsible for the threshing and are constantly in a state of anxious worry about the weather and about the threshing responsibility because the grain supplies the family with an essential supply of *tsamba* (roasted barley flour), the basic food.

Each family wishes to purchase a threshing machine, but the amount of cash income they can earn, apart from living expenses, is too little to purchase such a machine. Because they lack such a machine their production of high quality grain is low. A threshing machine would allow production of high quality grain which could then be exchanged for the more cash, clothes, and vegetables. Limited disposable income means that students must often dropout of school at an early age to return home to work. This project will directly overcome certain of the difficulties and burdens that families face.

◆ **Proposed Solutions:**

Women are burdened with all the family chores when men go out to earn cash income. This project aims at improving the living conditions of local families and in particular easing the burden on women. Female students will have same amount of time as male students to participate in class.

◆ **Activities Timetable:**

Start Date	End Date	Task
March 10	January 15	Purchase threshing machines and transport them to the project site
January 16	January 20	Select recipients and distribute them
January 21	January 25	Interview recipients
January 25	January 30	Organize interview data and other information needed for a final report

◆ **Sustainability:**

Threshing machines are simply comprised; the company in Chengdu will guarantee to replace elements for auto-malfunctions in the first year. Small machines that generate and transmit electricity to threshing machines are affordable to be replaced by three households. Overall, because of great use and combination of two households threshing machines will be kept functional for longtime in the future.

◆ **Beneficiaries:**

The beneficiaries of this project are the poorest 40 households in Brag mda' village. Women and girls will enjoy the most immediate and tangible benefits from this project. With a drastically reduced workload during September, October, November and parts of December, women will be able to use their time in other productive ways, such as in the household, on wage labor, or for much deserved leisure time. Girls will be able to spend more time on their studies. Also, this project will help change gender conceptions over the long-run as women and girls may get more out of education or paid labor. As they generate their own income or turn to more skilled labor, women's traditional identity and roles in Tibetan society may change in positive ways.

The benefits for the rest of the community are less tangible and are related to the benefits that women and girls will enjoy. This project will result in a more sustainable livelihood for the community as women and girls use their time to participate in wage labor, education, and other valued spheres.

Additional beneficiaries of the project will be other local people in need of charity services. The 50rmb collected from each project recipient will create a fund of 6,000rmb and will have the potential to meet some other serious needs in the area.

◆ **Budget:**

Item	Cost RMB
Donor's Contribution	
Grain threshing machines: 20 machines x 1,850 RMB	37,000
Transportation fee for machines (Chengdu-Zhangda Village)	3,500
Total	40,500
Local Contribution	
50 RMB per household x 40	2,000
Total	42,500
TOTAL BUDGET RMB	40,500

Use of Local Contribution: To be made in consultation with local villagers.